



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES OVER \$120,000 IN GRANTS FOR PROVIDENCE, PAWTUCKET, AND WOONSOCKET PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee was recently notified that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded Rhode Island a total of \$123,883 in assistance to the Housing Authorities of Providence, Pawtucket and Woonsocket, as part of the fiscal year 2004 Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) – Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program awards. The funds will be used to deliver and coordinate resident support and empowerment services, in addition to other activities that assist in attaining economic self-sufficiency, as well as independent living for elderly residents and those with disabilities.

“The programs administered by the Housing Authorities of Providence, Woonsocket, and Pawtucket are excellent examples of initiatives which educate, train, and support public housing residents. I am pleased these programs have been funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure their successful implementation for the upcoming year,” Senator Chafee said.

“I am especially pleased with the escrow account programs of all three housing authorities, which allow for residents of public housing to set aside increases in housing costs in escrow accounts for homeownership, tuition, or other investments for the future. This is an innovative way for residents benefiting from new jobs or wage increases to save the money they would otherwise need to put towards an increase in rent, providing them with a great jump start for the future,” he added.

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Of the total funding, the Providence Housing Authority will receive \$55,333 for the support of program staff costs for the FSS program. The program helps residents of public housing achieve economic independence through employment. Low-income parents work with case managers to develop short and long term job training and employment goals. Full time employment is mandatory, and FSS participants are able to successfully transition from welfare to work when their training, transportation and child care needs are met.

Additionally, the Woonsocket Housing Authority (WHA) has been awarded \$45,248 to fund the salary for the public housing FSS Program Coordinator. The FSS Coordinator acts as a case manager for each resident participating in the program, assessing the needs and goals of each family or resident. A contract is established between the residents and the WHA that sets out participants' plans to achieve their long-term goals, as well as interim benchmarks to measure progress. The Coordinator also manages a set of services and supports that specifically address the individual's needs and goals, which includes maintaining partnerships with the local welfare agency, schools, businesses, and other agencies. The Coordinator is also available to provide crisis intervention when needed by the residents.

Finally, a total of \$23,302 has been provided to the Housing Authority of the City of Pawtucket to similarly fund a FSS coordinator position. The coordinator will be responsible for helping residents become self-sufficient, and will provide guidance through educational assistance, job training, and effective money management, through the escrow account program. The coordinator will monitor all phases of the rehabilitation of about 17 participants in the Public Housing Program.

Each of the housing authorities also offers an escrow account program. This is an incentive for FSS participants to maintain employment and an opportunity to save money for long-term goals. As the family's earned income grows, the authority deposits the proportionally increased rental charges into the escrow account. The account is available at successful completion of the program.

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